

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, 14 and 23-26 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, 14 and 23-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

By this amendment, claims 1, 6, 9 and 14 have been amended without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter. Support for the amendment to the claims can be found, *inter alia*, throughout the specification and, for example at page 37, line 19, to page 38, line 2, at page 14, lines 18-21 and at page 16, lines 21-26.

The amendments are made solely to promote prosecution without prejudice or disclaimer of any previously claimed subject matter. With respect to all amendments and cancelled claims, Applicants have not dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover have not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded subject matter or claim embodiments in one or more future continuation and/or divisional application(s).

Applicants respectfully request entrance of this amendment. Applicants have carefully considered the points raised in the Office Action and believe that the Examiner's concerns have been addressed as described herein, thereby placing this case into condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 1-4, 6, 9-12, 14 and 23-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking enablement for the full scope of the claimed subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse this ground for rejection.

Although Applicants continue to believe that the claims were enabled when considered in view of the specification and the understanding of those of skill in the art, Applicants have attempted to respond to the concerns of the Examiner in order to facilitate disposition of the present case.

As amended, the claimed invention is directed to a method of delaying development of a symptom of papillomavirus infection and to a method of reducing severity of a symptom of papillomavirus infection comprising administering a polynucleotide comprising an immunostimulatory sequence (ISS) at a papillomavirus-associated lesion.

The Examiner acknowledges that the specification is enabling for methods of the invention where the polynucleotide comprising the immunostimulatory sequence is administered at the site of a papillomavirus lesion. The Examiner also states that “the experiments demonstrate that administration of ISS at the site of one lesion can effect regression of an untreated lesion in the same animal” and that “[s]uch an effect is not beyond what has been acknowledged to be the enabled scope of the invention.” Office Action, pages 3-4. Applicants therefore note that the claimed invention is directed to delaying development or reducing severity of a symptom of papillomavirus infection at the site of ISS administration and at a site other than the site of ISS administration.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is enabled by the specification and that the pending claims are in compliance with the enablement requirements.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

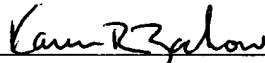
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all issues raised in the Office Action have been properly addressed in this response. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would serve to facilitate resolution of any outstanding issues, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 377882001300.

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Respectfully submitted,



Karen R. Zachow, Ph.D.
Registration No. 46,332

Morrison & Foerster LLP
3811 Valley Centre Drive, Suite 500
San Diego, California 92130-2332
Telephone: (858) 720-5191
Facsimile: (858) 720-5125
(858) 720-5191